

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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----- 013457

R 231735Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1112

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AZOREAN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

1. CAMPAIGN IN AZORES FOR ELECTION DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN MARKED BY ENTHUSIASM ON PART PARTICIPANTS AND ABSENCE VIOLENCE OR NOTABLE INCIDENTS. IN ADDITION TO OFFICIAL RADIO SPOTS, CAMPAIGN OF MAJOR PARTIES (CDS, PPD, PSP, MDP, PCP) HAVE FEATURED MAJOR ALLIES, DAILY PUBLIC MEETINGS, MOTORCADES, AND VISITS BY NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS. THOUGH PARTY ACTIVITIES HAVE CENTERED ON THREE AZOREAN DISTRICT CAPITALS, RURAL AREAS AND SMALLER, LESS POPULATED ISLANDS HAVE NOT BEEN IGNORED. LOCAL CIVIL AUTHORITIES, PRESS AND ARMED FORCES CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION CAMPAIGNS HAVE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ELECTIONS AND ENCOURAGED VOTING.

2. THOUGH ELECTORAL SPECTACLE APPEARS HAVE AMUSED LOCAL POPULATION, CAMPAIGN DOES NOT APPEAR HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED RELATIVE STRENGTHS OF VARIOUS PARTIES. ATTEMPTS BY LOCAL LEFT (NOTABLY PSP) TO EXPAND SUPPORT AMONG RURAL POPULATION WHICH CONSTITUTES MAJORITY AZOREAN ELECTORATE APPEARS HAVE BEEN FAILURE. PPD, WHICH HAS ALWAYS HAD SOLID SUPPORT OF AZOREAN UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES AND OF HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL RURAL CLERGY, REMAINS PARTY TO BEAT AND PPD SWEEP OF AZOREAN DELEGATIONS SEEMS LIKELY. ONLY IN PONTA DELGADA DISTRICT (WHERE BULK OF AZOREAN INDUSTRY, AND THEREFORE LEFTIST DOMINATED ORGANIZED LABOR, IS

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CONCENTRATED) DOES LEFT APPEAR HAVE CHANCE TO PICK UP DELEGATE

SEAT. HERE, STRONG ELEVENTH HOUR BID BY CDS HAS RAISED POSSIBILITY
OF CONSERVATIVE VOTE SPLITTING AND CONSEQUENT PSP CAPTURE OF
SINGLE SEAT. LOCAL CONSERVATIVES AWARE THIS DANGER, AND MANY
HAVE INFORMED CONSOFFS THAT, THOUGH PREFER CDS PROGRAM, WILL VOTE
PPD.
PARRIS

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Message Attributes

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